# Travis County District Courts' Operations During COVID-19 Emergency – Effective 03/20/2020

147 <sup>th</sup>	All dockets are closed until at least April 6 <sup>th</sup> . Attorneys have been notified of all resets by the coordinator. If the reset date is not convenient, please contact her. Settings of in-custody cases will be reassessed by April 6 <sup>th</sup> .  All non-custody jail cases are being reset until after May 8 <sup>th</sup> . The court will continue to assess the situation and update accordingly.
	The court will maintain normal business hours and will be available upon the request of any attorney to set a case for any essential purpose, such as pleas, sentencings, or any matter deemed necessary. All attorneys are encouraged to continue business as usual in negotiating resolution of cases.
	The court is also available to hear any request for release on personal bond according to standard practice.
167 <sup>th</sup>	Beginning April 2, the 167th will have one docket every week on Thursdays for any jail cases and anything that needs to be taken care of. The coordinator will send out emails with new reset dates for all settings in April. Attorneys, if those dates are not convenient please email and request the settings be moved.
	Office telephones have been forwarded to the coordinator so calls can be answered. Emails are being received and answered.
299 <sup>th</sup>	Dockets will be held weekly for jail settings beginning March 25th. Out of jail settings are being reset to May 11, 2020 or later. Defense counsel may check updated out of custody settings on the online dockets.
	The best way to communicate with the 299 <sup>th</sup> is via email at 299threset@traviscountytx.gov . If you call the office, please leave a detailed message with your phone number and your email address. Messages are transcribed and will be returned electronically.
331 <sup>st</sup>	Dockets  All in person dockets are cancelled through 5/8/20. We are working on implementing remote settings; I will keep you updated. I am open to in person settings for pleas, sentencings, hearings, bond reductions, etc. so long as we do not run afoul of the guidelines issues by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and State emergency measures.  Out of Custody Cases  All out of custody UDS cases are reset to the week of May 11, 2020 or after.
	All indicted out of custody cases are reset to the week of May 18, 2020 or after.

Any out of custody defendant currently monitored by any electronic device, their device will be county funded for the next 60 days, so PLEASE advise your client to not cut off their monitors. If they do so any way, this may result in their arrest, and we are trying to avoid this for at least the next several weeks.

Additionally, I will not be signing motions off of bonds for technical violations. All other violations may result in your client's arrest, and we are trying to avoid this for at least the next several weeks.

#### Jury Trials

With one exception, jury trials are reset to June 1, 2020 in the same order as they were previously set. This may be subject to change depending on our ability to find jurors willing to come to court. Please be patient.

#### **In Custody Cases**

All in custody cases will be set only for pleas, sentencings or hearings specifically requested by the defense counsel. We will try to set these settings up remotely. If that isn't feasible, we will do an in person setting compliant with all guidelines and emergency measures. Please confirm with the prosecutor by email or text all agreements, and all prosecutors should confirm that all agreements are loaded into Techshare.

## Bonds/Release Cards

Defense counsel will be notified if Judge Eldridge has agreed to release their clients on PR bonds or signed release card, and these bonds/cards will be available on John Zamarripa's desk for pick up. If an attorney does not want to pick up a bond or process a release, please let us know, and pretrial has agreed to process those bonds/cards. Since it is a very uncertain time, Judge Eldridge wants the attorneys who need to continue to work notwithstanding the self-imposed quarantine can at least recover for these jail releases. For those who don't want to risk contracting the Coronavirus, pretrial will handle those releases.

#### Court's Availability

Judge Eldridge will be available Monday through Friday during regular business hours either in person, by text or email. She will have in person office hours Monday and Tuesday. Court staff will be available Monday through Friday during regular business hours either in person or remotely.

## 390<sup>th</sup>

The 390th District Court will hold a docket one day weekly on Tuesdays for jail settings only effective Tuesday, March 24, 2020. To be placed on the jail docket, defense counsel must affirmatively request a setting from the court. Out of jail settings are being reset to May 11, 2020 or later and defense counsel will receive an email regarding those settings.

The best way to communicate with the 390th is to contact the coordinator via email. If you call the office, please leave a detailed message with your phone number and your email address. Messages are transcribed and we will get back to you electronically. All jury docket cases set before 5/8/2020 will automatically receive a subsequent setting from the Court Coordinator, please contact the Court to obtain the date.

403 <sup>rd</sup>	All out of jail cases will be reset for AFTER 5/8/2020 UNLESS the Defendant and/or Defense Attorney expresses a preference to keep the case on the date currently set for appearance, in which case he should notify the coordinator: 403rd.reset@traviscountytx.gov  All jury docket cases set before 5/8/2020 will automatically receive a subsequent setting from the Court Coordinator,
	please contact the Court to obtain the date.
	All in-jail cases that are set after 3/18/2020 for disposition will be set on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week; please notify the court coordinator if the defendant's presence is necessary 24 hours prior to the setting by 2pm;
	If there are in-jail cases currently set for days other than a Tuesday or Thursday, we will observe that setting unless the attorney requests otherwise. Please notify the Court for any requested change indicating whether the defendant's presence is necessary.
427 <sup>th</sup>	Jail Cases: All in-custody cases starting the week of Monday March 23rd have been moved to the Friday of the week it was set. Friday's will be the only day of the week for in-custody until May 8th.
	Not In Custody Clients: All non-custody cases have been moved to May 11th or after. If an attorney wants to appear at a Friday docket for a case, you may do so. Please email the coordinator.
	Jury Cases: Jury cases have all been moved to Docket May 28th for June 1 selection. If this does not work for you, please let the court know.
	ATTORNEYS - YOU MUST REQUEST YOUR INMATE TO BE BROUGHT BY THURSDAY AT NOON BEFORE THE FRIDAY DOCKET. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST YOUR INMATE THEN THEY WILL NOT BE BROUGHT AND WE DO NOT WANT YOU TO COME TO COURT - EMAIL 427THRESET@TRAVISCOUNTYTX.GOV OR CALL OFFICE AT 512 -854-3663 FOR RESET.
	The 427th will be closed other than for docket days. However, phone calls are still being answered.
450 <sup>th</sup>	All non-custody cases will be moved to May 11th or after. We will be reaching out to each attorney set on our docket to reset cases. You are welcomed to email us any reset requests.
	All Jury cases set prior to May 8th will be reset. Please email the State and Sonya to coordinate a new date: 450th.reset@traviscountytx.gov

	We have a Jail docket on Friday March 27th. After that we will have a Jail docket every other Tuesday. Please notify the court if your client needs to be brought.
	For bond requests out of our court please feel free to stop during our docket or email Judge Urrutia with all of the information he needs.
	If you have ANY questions at all please feel free to email us or call. We will be working remotely during regular business hours with the exception of our Jail Docket day. Contact info: 512-854-2441
460 <sup>th</sup>	EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:
	The 460th District Court is suspending ALL IN-COURT DOCKETS. This court policy is in line with Texas Office of Court Administration recommendations which state "that (courts) continue to delay in-person proceedings of any size until at least May 1". https://www.txcourts.gov/media/court-procedures-for-the-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/ I appreciate the substantial efforts of those individuals working diligently to provide Travis County courts remote proceedings capabilities. When video conferencing is available in our jurisdiction as a workable alternative to in-person proceedings, the 460th team is ready to immediately resume court business electronically. However, until that time, the risk to the health of staff, courthouse employees and inmates is too great.
	All non-custody cases will be moved to May 11th or after. Jury cases have all been rolled to jury dockets beginning June 1st in the same order in which they were set. Please contact the coordinator to confirm your new trial date.
	EMAIL: <u>460THRESET@TRAVISCOUNTYTX.GOV</u> OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 512 -854-6150. Any voicemails will be received by court staff and returned promptly.
Magistrate	Kerri will reset an entire day's worth of out of jail cases to May. She will do that a few days before the docket, and notify the lawyers. If a lawyer wants a different day, the lawyer must email, not phone, Kerri Keskinen and Pedro Reyes.
	We continue to bring State Jail Felony Impact defendants to court, since those often are resolved first time.
	We will not bring MD cases (MD1, MD2) etc., unless the lawyer requests.
	We hope to do all restoration of competency cases with the lawyers sending a Waiver of Objections to Competency Report; I will then just sign the judgement restoring competency. The lawyer must affirm he/she has spoken to the defendant. If the lawyer wants the defendant brought, they need to request that.